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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: A.H. Christofferson et al. Examiner: Pham, Hung Q.
Serial No.: 09/409,613 Group Art Unit: 2172
Filed: October 1, 1999 Docket No.: RO999091
TITLE: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR ACCESSING FILES IN A FILE
SYSTEM

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, P.O. Box 1450, VA 22313-1450 on April 5, 2004.

David W. Victor

AMENDMENT

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APR 19 2004

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to a non-final Office Action ("Office Action") dated November 5, 2003, in which the Examiner found that claims 41, 43, and 45 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form and rejected claims 1-40, 42, and 44 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) in view of cited art. On July 1, 2003, the Examiner and attorney for Applicants held a phone interview to discuss the prior art rejections. No agreement was reached with respect to the rejected claims.

Applicants amend allowable claims 41, 43, and 45 to include the requirements of the base and intervening claims to place in condition for allowance. Applicants further add the requirements of claims 40, 42, and 44 to independent claims 1, 10, and 19 and cancel claims 40, 42, and 44. Applicants traverse the prior art rejections in view of the amended claims and submit that all pending claims 1-39, 41, 43, and 45 are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed herein.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13.

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